(b) No, Sir. However IMF's appraisal is consistent with the World Bank's advice to India on trade policy, according to which a reduction in trade restrictions would lead to an improvement in India's export performance, would improve the competitiveness of import-competing domestic industry, and would provide benefits to domestic purchasers and consumersordd

(c) The Government is taking all ttieasures to increase the pace of economic development as part of the ongoing economic reform process.

**Persons on ITC Board chargesheeted by Enforcement Directorate**

2259. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement Directorate has charge-sheeted all those who had served on the board of ITC Ud., since 1993 including nominees of the Financial Institutions; and

3; (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) aid (b) Yes, Sir. Five Show Cause Notices have been issued by the Enforcement Directorate to M/s. ITC, its Chairman, Ex-Chairman and all its Directors who were on the company'*; Board durins: the period 1993-*95,* including nominees of the financial institutions.

**Persons arrested for violation of custom rsales**

2260. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister . of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of persons arrested for violation of customs rules in the country during each of the last three years up till now; and

(b) the amount of drugs, gold, silver, cash and foreign articles seized from them, custom-zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRt SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Lie investment in Honsing Sector in Maharashtra**

2261. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) housing loans given by the LIC in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidar-bha region during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that LIC is investing loss amount in Maharashtra compared to other States in respect of housing loans;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps Governments propose to take to ensure that LIC invests substantial amount in housing sector of Maharashtra through loans?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Planning Comm'ssion had allocated Rs. 9".02, 10.29 and 8.94 crores to Government of Maharashtra for housing; loans for the financial years 1994-95, 1995-96 aM 1996-97 respectively, but the amounts were not disbursed since the State Government did not avail of the loan. However, for the same period an amount of Rs. 16.00 crores in each financial year have been disbursed by LIC to the Maharashtra State Co-ooerative Housing Finance Coroorat'on Ltd. The housing loans given to State Governments

are bulk loans which are utilisedby the concerned State Government for various housing schemes all over the State.

(b) to (d) Lie disburses loans to the State Governments for housing sector on the basis of allocation made by the Planning Commission and demands received from the Housing Finance Societies of the State Governments .

**Proper credit sh-jre to Tiny Industrial Sector**

'2262. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to earmark a proper share of credit to the tiny industrial sector within the priority sector lending by banks and public financ\il institjutions in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard;

"(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how Government have ensured strict compliance of these guidelines by banks and financial instjitur

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI .SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed a target for public sector banks to extent 40 per cent of their net bank credit as priority sector advances comprising various sec-*tor* including small scale industries (SSI) for country as whole. No separate, state-wise taregts have been prescribed* ,

RBI in'"ffiie'credit polxy for first half of 1997-98 has announced that out of funds available to all segments of the SSI sector, banks should ensure that 40 per cent will be made available for units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5 la'Kh, 20 per cent for units with investment betlween Rs. 5 lakh and Rs. 25 lakh and the remaining 40 per cent for other SSI units.

**Investigations into *the* working ot Foreign Exchange dealers.**

2263. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI YERA NARAYANA-SWAMY:
SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue intellig ence agencies have launched country-*wide investigations into the working of many foreign exchange dealers;

(b) if so, whether it has also come to the notice of Government that several foreign exchange dealers are involved in illegal withdrawal of for eign exchange worth crores of using forged documents;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Goverament to , curb the illegal activities of foreign exchange dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STAfE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) During 1996-97 the Enforcement Directorate has initiated investigations against 11 authorised dealers/ money changers in the cases relating to suspected violations of the provi- sions of Foreign Exchange Regula- tion Act, 1973' (FERA).

(b) and' (c) The Enforcement Directorate has taken up invest'ga-: tions relating to withdrawal of foreign exchange by some money changers/authorised .dealers suspectedly